



## State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet 2015 Montana



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2014 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$400,000
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$568,554
Forest Legacy	\$627,918
Forest Stewardship	\$180,500
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$2,351,457
Urban and Community Forestry	\$221,900
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$363,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,714,129</b>

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

The mission of the Forestry Division of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is to "ensure sustainability of Montana forests, rural lands, and communities through cooperative wildland fire protection, sound forest management practices, and by promoting a viable forest-based economy."

Cooperative Forestry programs are integral to fulfilling this mission. The programs provide critical assistance to Montana landowners, communities, forest-based industries and others. These programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between DNRC, USDA Forest Service (USFS), and other private, non-profit and government entities. They promote the health and productivity of Montana's forests and rural economies.

### Program Goals:

- Provide responsible and proactive stewardship of state and private forest and range lands to meet a multitude of objectives;
- Support healthy forests and range lands through effective response to wildfire, insect and disease, and other emerging threats;
- Increase economic, social, and environmental values through sustained forest management;
- Promote vibrant communities with parks, boulevard trees, and natural areas; and
- Foster an integrated forest industry in Montana through sustainable management of private, state, tribal, and federal lands.

### Key Issues:

- Efficient delivery of beneficial landowner and community assistance programs;
- Manage for safe and effective wildland fire suppression;
- Maintain forest health across rural and urban landscapes;
- Use forest and agricultural biomass for heat and energy production;
- Restoration of sustainable forest management and forested ecosystems;
- Public recognition of the importance and benefit of forest management and support for the forest industry in Montana;
- Meet resource management objectives in critical landscapes identified in the Montana Forest Action Plan;
- Support and implement the National Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy; and

- Conserve and promote working forests.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY 2014 Accomplishments	
Population	989,415	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	2,681
Acres of Forest Land	25,573,200	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	16,104
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	5,430,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	8,254
Number of NIPF Landowners	40,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	327
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	1,698,462	State Fire Communities Assisted	63
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	2,658,952	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	7,500
Number of Rural Fire Departments	385	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	127	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	54
Forest Based Employment	6,530	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	479,925
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	9,143
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	14,756,704		

## Program Highlights:

### Cooperative Fire Protection

During the 2014 fire season, DNRC responded to 288 fires that burned 15,663 acres. DNRC strives for an initial attack success rate -- keeping fires under 10 acres -- of 95% or more for direct protection fires. This year's rate was 98%. Montana's net fire costs for the 2014 fire season were approximately \$2.8 million.

### Forest Health Protection

The Forest Health program conducted an operational whitebark pine direct-seeding project to supplement private lands impacted by mountain pine beetle and white pine blister rust. Whitebark pine is an important habitat species in Montana and has been declining due to insects and disease as well as unreliable natural regeneration. For this project, regeneration surveys were conducted on 489 plots to prioritize planting sites, whitebark pine seeds were stratified in-house over 90 days, and 8,200 seeds were hand-planted. This project was conducted in partnership with American Forests and the Forest Service.

### Forest Stewardship

In 2014, Montana was selected to host a TELE (Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively) workshop. This innovative approach seeks to identify barriers and opportunities to encourage forest landowners to develop management plans, identify objectives and implement actions toward responsible forest stewardship.

### Landowner Assistance

Montana continues to see success in an important partnership with the Forest Service for delivering cost-share grant assistance to private, tribal and state partners. In FY 14, the DNRC worked with 10 partners on projects utilizing \$1.2 million in Western States WUI Grants and \$440,000 in Hazardous Fuels Grants. Projects funded are for fuels reduction, forest restoration, watershed protection, forest health and for sustainable forestry management.

### Urban and Community Forestry

Montana Urban & Community Forestry program awarded 67 grants to 51 communities in 2014. The communities, in turn, leveraged this investment with nearly \$200,000 in matching funds. Grants were

awarded for program development, Arbor Day and for the Tree City of the Year program.

### ***Chessman Reservoir Project***

The Montana DNRC and Northern Region, Forest Service, entered into a Master Stewardship Agreement and commenced with the 490-acre Red Mountain Flume Chessman Reservoir Project in the Tenmile Watershed. This treatment around the reservoir and along the flume transport infrastructure is designed to protect the city of Helena's municipal water supply from catastrophic wildfires. Under this agreement, the Montana DNRC serves to administer a contract for all aspects of the project. The two agencies will work together to conduct the burning activities. The project also includes commercial timber as well as a biomass utilization component.

### ***Forest Products and Biomass***

Montana's Forest Products and Biomass program continued with efforts to provide positive recognition for Montana wood producers through a variety of avenues: Forest Products Week, National Bioenergy Day focus on wood energy, and marketing for Montana wood products. Governor Steve Bullock signed an Executive Order promoting use of Montana wood in state building/heating projects. DNRC is working in partnership with Missoula College and Woodworks to develop an "advanced building with wood" curriculum and training to technical colleges and working professionals.

### ***Montana Forests in Focus Initiative***

In July, 2014, Montana Governor Steve Bullock announced his "Forests in Focus" initiative aimed at increasing the speed and scale of work on state, private and federal forests. The initiative has four focus areas: forest restoration and industry retention; collaboration and partnerships; tribal, state and private forests; and federal forest management. The Initiative comes with an initial investment of \$3 million dollars in state funding: \$1 million in special funding for state officials working with the Forest Service and \$2 million for private land cost-share forestry programs.

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#### ***For more information, please contact:***



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